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Bedfordshire County Council

REPORT

upon the

SANITARY CONDITION
AND PUBLIC HEALTH

of the

Administrative County of Bedford

for the year

1945

by

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit this Report for the year 1945 upon the public health of the County. A satisfactory standard of health has been maintained during the year. This experience is in common with that of the whole country. Sir Wilson Jameson in his Report covering the war years comments as follows "that the state of the public health should be as good as it is today is indeed a miracle." Factors which have attributed to this remarkable circumstance are the work done by our medical scientists on the sulphonamides and, most recently, the discovery of the great value of penicillin. A further provision which demands particular mention is the great extension of the Blood Transfusion Service throughout the country whereby many lives have been saved. Appreciation of the value of vitamins in the prevention and cure of certain diseases and the recognition of their necessity as constituents of the diets of us all has materially helped in keeping the general standard of nutrition up to a satisfactory level despite restrictions in the variety and quantity obtainable. Much has been done in factories and other industrial undertakings to promote the health of the workers—in particular the appointment of medical officers, nursing and welfare officers, and the provision of canteens.

Health publicity in various forms is making the general public increasingly health-conscious. As an example of the good effects of publicity the truly remarkable response throughout the country to immunisation against diphtheria may be mentioned.

The Birth Rate, in common with the rest of the country, shows in comparison with 1944, a decrease ; it is however the second highest recorded since 1920.

The Death Rate, which shows a very small reduction on the rate for the preceding year, is below that for the country as a whole.

I desire to draw the attention of the Council to the new low record of Infantile Mortality in the County.

Reference is made in the Report to the large increase in Venereal Diseases attributable to war conditions. Happily there are indications that this has now passed its peak.

I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the good work of the whole of the Public Health Staff who have continued in these trying times to give of their best. It will be appreciated that the work of the Department is continually increasing since frequent additions are made by various Government Departments to the responsibilities of the County Medical Service.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

CUTHBERT G. WELCH.

County Medical Officer of Health.

SHIRE HALL,

BEDFORD.

October, 1946.

BEDFORDSHIRE.

The area of the geographical and administrative County is 474 square miles, or 302,942 acres. Its greatest length from North to South is $36\frac{1}{2}$ miles and its greatest breadth $22\frac{1}{2}$ miles from East to West.

The County contains no County Boroughs but includes the three Non-County Boroughs of Bedford, Dunstable and Luton. There are in addition, five Urban Districts, and four Rural Districts.

At the 1st April, 1945, the rateable value was £1,816,442. The estimated produce of a penny rate for 1944-45 was for general County purposes, £7,178.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The aggregate resident population of the County, as estimated for the middle of 1945, by the Registrar General, was as follows:—

<i>Urban Districts</i>				<i>Persons</i>
Ampthill	...	...	...	2,736
Bedford	...	...	...	51,070
Biggleswade	...	...	...	7,075
Dunstable	...	...	...	15,680
Kempston	...	...	...	7,692
Leighton Buzzard	...	...	...	7,550
Luton	...	...	...	100,600
Sandy	...	...	...	3,507
Aggregate of Urban Districts				195,910
<i>Rural Districts</i>				
Ampthill	...	...	...	19,500
Bedford	...	...	...	25,020
Biggleswade	...	...	...	20,820
Luton	...	...	...	17,250
Aggregate of Rural Districts				82,590
The County				278,500

The population of the County, according to the 1931 Census, was 220,525.

BIRTHS.

The Birth-Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1945 was 18.4 per thousand, which is less than in 1944 when the rate was 20.9 per thousand, being the highest since 1920. The birth rate for the County as a whole also shows a decrease.

In 1945, 5,135 live births were registered in the County. The birth-rates per 1,000 for Bedfordshire and the Urban and Rural Districts thereof, and for England and Wales for the last five years, are given below:—

LOCALITIES	BIRTH RATE				
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Urban Districts ...	13.9	16.8	18.3	21.2	18.9
Rural Districts ...	13.5	15.8	16.0	18.9	17.2
Whole County ...	13.8	16.5	17.6	20.9	18.4
England and Wales ...	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1

Natural increase of population is the excess of births over deaths and is usually expressed per thousand of the population. In Bedfordshire the natural increase was 7.4 per thousand in 1945; that for England and Wales being 4.7 per thousand.

The live birth statistics for the County districts for the year 1945 are shown in the following tables.

DISTRICTS	TOTAL BIRTHS	LEGITI-MATE	ILLEGITI-MATE	TOTAL BIRTH RATE
URBAN:—				
Ampthill	45	40	5	16.4
Bedford	930	804	126	18.2
Biggleswade	113	106	7	16.0
Dunstable	294	263	31	18.7
Kempston	196	178	18	25.5
Leighton Buzzard ...	163	152	11	21.6
Luton	1905	1768	137	18.9
Sandy	65	62	3	18.5
Aggregate of Urban Districts ...	3711	3373	338	18.9
RURAL:—				
Ampthill	325	301	24	16.7
Bedford	456	409	47	18.2
Biggleswade	350	324	26	16.8
Luton	293	271	22	17.0
Aggregate of Rural Districts ...	1424	1305	119	17.2

STILL BIRTHS.

The Still-Birth Rate for Bedfordshire, that is to say, the rate per thousand total births (live and still) was 26.5 in 1945 as compared with 27.0 in 1944.

It is gratifying to be able to record the fact that the rate of still-births in the County has, with slight variations, shown a decline in the war years ; for example, in 1939 the rate was 34 per 1,000, whereas the highest rate recorded during the war years was 32.1 in 1942, whilst the rate for 1945 has fallen to 26.5. During this period the maternity provisions for the County have been extended, not only in the provision of beds for institutional treatment, but additional ante-natal clinics have been established in various parts of the County.

Particulars of still births registered in the County during the last five years, are set out in the following table:—

		TOTAL		LEGITIMATE		ILLEGITIMATE	
		Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Urban Districts	{ 1941	57	41	55	40	2	1
	{ 1942	74	47	71	44	3	3
	{ 1943	61	40	58	38	3	2
	{ 1944	62	62	54	56	8	6
	{ 1945	61	42	58	38	3	4
Rural Districts	{ 1941	21	18	20	17	1	1
	{ 1942	18	23	16	22	2	1
	{ 1943	31	19	31	18	—	1
	{ 1944	23	28	21	26	2	2
	{ 1945	21	16	18	15	3	1
Whole County	{ 1941	78	59	75	57	3	2
	{ 1942	92	70	87	66	5	4
	{ 1943	92	59	89	56	3	3
	{ 1944	85	90	75	82	10	8
	{ 1945	82	58	76	53	6	5

DEATHS.

The Death-Rate for Bedfordshire for the year 1945 was 11.0 per thousand ; that for England and Wales being 11.4 per thousand. It will be observed that the death-rates for Bedfordshire and for England and Wales as a whole showed a slight decrease. The total number of deaths registered in the County, after adjustment for outward and inward transfers, during 1945 was 3,061,

compared with 3,159 in 1944. The Death-Rates per thousand of the population during the past five years, were as follows:—

LOCALITIES	GENERAL DEATH RATE				
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Urban Districts ...	10.5	10.6	11.1	10.9	10.7
Rural Districts ...	11.6	10.3	11.1	11.5	11.7
Whole County ...	10.9	10.5	11.1	11.1	11.0
England and Wales ...	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4

The recorded crude Death-Rates for the Sanitary Districts in Bedfordshire for 1945 are given below:—

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICTS	Death Rate	RURAL SANITARY DISTRICTS	Death Rate
Amphill ...	15.7	Amphill ...	13.3
Bedford ...	12.1	Bedford ...	11.6
Biggleswade ...	11.6	Biggleswade ...	11.6
Dunstable ...	10.4	Luton ...	10.1
Kempston ...	11.3		
Leighton Buzzard ...	12.6		
Luton ...	9.5		
Sandy ...	12.5		

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This is calculated as the proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to every 1,000 live births and forms the record known as the rate of infantile mortality. The death-rates per thousand of the live births for 1945 are given below:—

Urban Districts ...	33.4	Whole County ...	34.1
Rural Districts ...	35.8	England and Wales	46.0

One of the most satisfactory features which the Vital Statistics of the County disclose is the further reduction of infantile mortality to a new low record for the County of 34.1 During the early years of the War there was an increase in the rate from 38.8 to 53.5, but the last three years have shown progressive decreases.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were nine deaths during the year associated with child birth, giving a maternal death rate per thousand total births (live and still) of 1.70, as compared with 1.79 for England and Wales as a whole.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD, 1945.

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGGREGATE OF URBAN DISTRICTS						AGGREGATE OF RURAL DISTRICTS							
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 up-wards	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 up-wards
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	21	10	3
Diphtheria	1	1	2	3	51	28	10	34	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	94	—	2	4	7	2	1	4	1	1	—	2	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	25	1	10	—	2	1	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	8	1	—	—	2	3	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	12	2	—	—	1	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	5	—	—	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cancer of buc. cav., and Oesoph. (M) Uterus (F)	24	—	—	—	2	11	11	18	—	—	—	1	8	9
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	66	—	—	—	2	30	34	32	—	—	—	2	9	21
Cancer of Breast	43	—	—	—	5	17	21	16	—	—	—	7	5	11
Cancer of all other Sites	211	—	—	1	16	85	109	88	—	2	—	—	27	52
Diabetes	16	—	—	1	1	4	10	5	—	—	—	1	1	3
Intra. cranial Vascular Lesions	234	—	—	—	2	43	189	125	—	—	—	—	22	103
Heart Disease	518	—	—	2	18	100	398	255	—	—	—	4	44	207
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	91	—	—	—	1	10	80	36	—	—	—	—	1	35
Bronchitis	124	6	2	—	4	23	89	47	5	2	—	2	6	34
Pneumonia	61	10	2	1	5	16	27	41	8	—	2	3	5	21
Other Respiratory Diseases	38	—	—	—	5	15	18	6	—	—	—	2	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	29	—	—	—	5	14	10	12	—	—	—	1	6	5
Diarrhoea under 2 years	17	16	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	9	—	—	—	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	41	1	1	—	8	12	19	20	—	2	—	1	6	11
Nephritis	52	—	—	2	6	16	28	24	—	—	—	2	10	12
Puerperal and Post. Abortive Sepsis	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	33	33	—	—	—	—	—	16	16	—	—	—	—	—
Con. Mal. Birth Injuries, Infant. Diseases	40	36	1	—	—	3	—	16	15	—	—	—	1	—
Suicide	18	—	—	—	8	5	5	11	—	—	—	2	5	4
Road Traffic Accidents	16	—	2	4	5	3	2	8	—	—	1	1	3	3
Other Violent Causes	38	5	2	7	7	5	12	28	2	2	4	5	7	8
All Other Causes	216	9	4	3	20	44	136	107	1	1	1	6	17	81
TOTALS: ALL CAUSES	2095	124	29	30	196	496	1220	966	51	10	9	67	197	632

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD, 1945.

CAUSES OF DEATH	ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS												TOTALS	
	Amptill		Bedford		Biggleswade		Dunstable Borough	Kempston Urban	Leighton Buzzard Urban	Luton		Sandy Urban	U.D.'s, 1945	R.D.'s, 1945
	Urban	Rural	Borough	Rural	Urban	Rural				Borough	Rural			
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	4	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Tuberculosis of Resp. System ..	2	13	29	5	3	11	5	3	—	50	5	2	94	34
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	1	7	1	1	2	1	3	—	13	—	—	25	4
Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	3	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	1	—	8	5
Influenza ...	—	—	5	1	1	—	2	—	—	4	4	—	12	5
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio. enceph.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Infant. enceph. ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	5	1
Cancer, b. cav. Oesoph. (M)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uterus (F) ...	1	4	7	5	1	7	2	1	1	11	2	—	24	18
Cancer, Stomach and Duodenum	—	9	13	9	1	9	4	3	8	34	5	3	66	32
Cancer of Breast ...	1	3	8	4	2	4	5	—	1	26	5	—	43	16
Cancer of all other Sites ...	5	17	56	34	7	21	20	7	13	98	16	5	211	88
Diabetes ...	—	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	7	1	1	16	5
Intra. Cran. Vasc. Lesions ...	3	41	87	39	11	39	17	3	10	96	6	7	234	125
Heart Disease ...	19	82	142	62	21	61	30	34	23	241	50	8	518	255
Other Diseases Circ. System ...	1	7	42	21	6	3	7	6	4	23	5	2	91	36
Bronchitis ...	5	10	39	13	3	16	10	6	3	53	8	5	124	47
Pneumonia ...	1	13	16	11	1	6	5	2	3	31	11	2	61	41
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	—	15	3	1	1	3	2	1	13	2	2	38	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	2	13	5	—	4	4	—	1	11	1	—	29	12
Diarrhoea, under 2 years ...	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	10	1	1	17	1
Appendicitis ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	9	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	5	10	5	—	5	8	1	2	20	5	—	41	20
Nephritis ...	2	7	21	5	2	9	3	1	4	18	3	1	52	24
Puerperal and Post Abort. Sepsis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	4	—
Other Maternal Causes ...	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	3
Premature Birth ...	—	5	9	6	4	3	4	2	—	14	2	—	33	16
Con. Mal. Birth Injuries, Infant.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diseases ...	—	3	8	6	2	6	4	1	3	21	1	1	40	16
Suicide ...	—	1	6	5	—	3	3	—	—	9	2	—	18	11
Road Traffic Accidents ...	—	2	2	3	2	—	1	—	—	11	3	—	16	8
Other Violent Causes ...	1	8	11	8	1	5	1	3	—	21	7	—	38	28
All Other Causes ...	1	21	55	35	9	23	23	6	16	103	28	3	216	107
TOTALS: ALL CAUSES ...	43	259	620	291	82	242	164	87	95	960	174	44	2095	966

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications of cases of Infectious Disease received during the year 1945,
under Article 17 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

1945	ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS												TOTALS
	Amphill Urban Rural		Bedford Borough Rural		Biggleswade Urban Rural		Dunstable Borough	Kempston Urban	Leighton Buzzard Urban	Luton Borough Rural		Sandy Urban	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3	23	94	37	1	7	32	1	14	123	45	—	380
Diphtheria including Mem- branous Croup	—	2	7	1	4	—	—	9	2	19	1	2	47
Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia	—	15	39	13	—	9	—	1	5	57	7	—	146
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	10
Acute Polio-Myelitis	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	4
Acute Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	2	—	54	—	—	3	89	1	—	149
Erysipelas	—	4	19	3	1	4	2	—	2	15	5	—	55
Whooping Cough	1	8	25	19	10	1	15	3	—	119	8	—	209
Measles	12	306	838	410	22	98	245	75	21	914	122	—	3063
OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES :													
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	43
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jaundice	—	—	14	—	—	6	14	—	—	71	3	—	108
TOTALS	16	359	1057	489	38	182	309	89	47	1447	193	2	4228

INFLUENZA.

The number of deaths attributed to influenza during the year was 17 as compared with 24 in the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 157 deaths registered from this cause in Bedfordshire in 1945, being 5.1 per cent of the total number of deaths from all causes, as compared with 154 (4.9 per cent) in 1944.

The County death-rate from tuberculosis (all forms) per thousand of the population was 0.56, that for the combined Urban Districts being 0.61, and that for the combined Rural Districts being 0.46. The death-rate for the Country as a whole during 1945 was 0.62.

The following table shows the death-rates from pulmonary tuberculosis per thousand population for the County and the Urban and Rural Districts:—

DISTRICTS	Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000 population				
	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Urban Districts ...	0.54	0.46	0.57	0.46	0.48
Rural Districts ...	0.34	0.23	0.32	0.39	0.41
Whole County ...	0.48	0.39	0.49	0.44	0.46

The death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis for England and Wales in 1945 was 0.52 per thousand of the population.

The following new cases of tuberculosis were notified, in accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, during 1945:—

Pulmonary :	Males	...	157
	Females	...	123
		—	280
Non-Pulmonary :	Males	...	25
	Females	...	32
		—	57
		—	337

The total number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1945 was 2 less than the number notified during the previous year, whilst the non-pulmonary cases showed a decrease of 7.

60 other cases (33 males and 27 females) came to the notice of your Medical Officer other than by notification as required by the Regulations, *e.g.*, Death Returns, Inward Transfers, etc.

Dispensaries.

For Dispensary purposes, the County is divided into three areas, namely, Bedford, Luton and Biggleswade.

The Dispensaries are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated:—

DISPENSARY AT	DAY	TIME
Dents Road, Bedford	Wednesday	2—4 p.m.
St. Andrew's Rooms, Biggleswade...	Wednesday	11 a.m.—1 p.m.
*Grove Road (former Bute Hospital), Luton	Tuesday (Children) ...	12—1 p.m.
	„ (Men) ...	2—4 p.m.
	Thursday (Women) ...	2—4 p.m.

* Transferred from 17, Church Street, Luton, in April, 1946.

The number of cases remaining on the Registers of the three Dispensaries at the end of the year 1945 is set out below:—

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			TOTAL
	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Children	
1945 ...	755	598	133	156	142	102	1886

The number of attendances at the Dispensaries during 1945 (including contacts) was 3,349, and 1,985 visits were paid to the homes of patients by the Tuberculosis Nurses and the Council's Health Visitors.

All cases on the Dispensary Register are visited from time to time by the Council's Health Visitors, and visits and examinations are made by the Tuberculosis Officers as and when required.

741 specimens of sputum, etc., were examined during the year (positive for tubercle bacilli, 201—negative, 540).

By an arrangement with Dr. H. B. Padwick and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton, X-Ray examinations in connection with the Council's Tuberculosis Scheme are made at this Hospital and at the residence of Dr. Padwick, in Bedford. During 1945, 1,505 such examinations were made, including 17 examinations at other Hospitals and Institutions.

Extra Nourishment.

As in the past years, extra nourishment has been granted to suitable cases, all applications being investigated by a special Sub-Committee appointed for this purpose. Every effort is made to see that the milk supplied is of an approved quality, and wherever possible designated milk is given. The cost of this service during the financial year ended 31st March, 1946, was £1,055 1s. 6d. as compared with £1,166 2s. 0d. in the previous twelve months.

Allowances Scheme.

Under the Government's Scheme for affording financial assistance to tuberculous patients who are obliged to give up their work in order to undertake treatment, seventy-two new applications for allowances were granted during the year.

Bedfordshire Sanatorium.

Institutional treatment for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is provided at the Council's Sanatorium, situated at Mogerhanger Park and at Institutions in other parts of the County. The Bedfordshire Sanatorium has accommodation for 73 beds ; 37 males, 36 females. During the year 1945, 70 cases completed treatment at the Sanatorium and at the end of the year, 45 cases were under treatment. The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis receiving treatment in other Institutions at the end of the year was 69.

During 1945 the Ministry of Health was again approached with regard to the erection of a new Sanatorium in the County. The Ministry replied that owing to the " exigencies of building labour and materials still prevailing " the Minister is unable to agree to the erection of a new Sanatorium at the present time. The Ministry also declined to give approval to the purchase of a site for Sanatorium purposes. In view of this decision, in addition to redecoration of the premises, work was put in hand for improvements to be carried out in the existing buildings and the Council authorised the erection of an extension to accommodate a complete X-ray unit.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 172.

It was not found necessary during the year to apply for any Orders under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Cases of tuberculosis of the bones, joints, etc., in adults and children are dealt with by securing their admission to Institutions recognised by the Ministry of Health for this purpose.

The number of cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis receiving treatment at special Institutions in various parts of the Country at the end of the year was 33.

In cases where the circumstances of the patients make it impossible for them to bear the cost of surgical appliances, the necessary expenditure is met by the County Council.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Clinics are open on the following days in each week and between the times stated:—

BEDFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Males:	Mondays to Fridays (inclusive)				4—8 p.m.
Females:	Mondays	...	...	...	6 p.m.
	Tuesdays	...	...	...	3—5 p.m.
	Wednesdays	...	...	...	5—7 p.m.
	Thursdays	...	...	...	6 p.m.
	Fridays	...	...	...	3—5 p.m.

LUTON AND DUNSTABLE HOSPITAL.

Males:	Mondays	...	...	...	2—8 p.m.
	Tuesdays	...	...	...	5.30—8 p.m.
	Wednesdays	...	...	...	2—8 p.m.
	Thursdays	...	...	...	5.30—8 p.m.
	Fridays	...	...	...	2—8 p.m.
Females:	Mondays	...	...	...	9 a.m.—6.30 p.m.
	Tuesdays	...	...	...	9 a.m.—7.0 p.m.
	Wednesdays	...	...	...	9 a.m.—noon
	Thursdays	...	...	...	9 a.m.—7.0 p.m.
	Fridays	...	...	...	9 a.m.—6.30 p.m.

For the purpose of comparison, the following tables are inserted, showing the principal statistics for each area for the last five years:—

Year	New Cases					Total No. of injects. of N.A.B., etc.	Kahn Tests	Total attend- ances of all Patients
	Syphilis	Soft Chancre	Gonor- rhoea	Non V.D.	Total			
BED FORD								
1941	14	—	90	68	172	1278	147	4287
1942	23	—	82	135	240	1434	511	5389
1943	21	—	120	163	304	1485	536	5596
1944	40	—	78	192	310	1939	546	5358
1945	37	—	108	192	337	1933	664	6174
LUT ON								
1941	41	—	131	98	270	2238	171	7114
1942	41	—	93	121	255	2378	484	6625
1943	36	—	108	288	432	2248	621	6180
1944	40	3	141	196	380	2319	702	9067
1945	46	1	121	242	410	3284	612	9035

During the war period the number of cases of venereal disease has greatly increased ; in 1945 the number of such cases treated at each of the Clinics has been more than double the number for 1939. The figures for Bedfordshire broadly speaking coincide with those of the rest of the Country. Sir Wilson Jameson, the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, comments on this as follows : Social conditions during the war favoured the spread of venereal diseases to a far greater extent than in 1914-18. Families were disrupted as never before, and the country became the training ground for the Forces of other nations as well as our own, so that sexual promiscuity must have been practised on a scale never previously obtaining. In 1939 the incidence of early syphilis, as judged by the cases dealt with at the treatment centres, had reached the lowest point on record, but by the end of 1943 there was an increase in early syphilis of about 140 per cent above 1939 figures, followed by a slight decline in 1944.

During the year 1945, thirty-four notifications were received under Regulation 33B of the Defence (General) Regulations of persons suspected to be a source of infection. Twenty contacts were found, of whom 17 were examined and treated. The others could not be traced as insufficient details were given. Frequently the only information given is the woman's christian name with a note of the public house frequented. Two cases were notified by more than one informant. Both cases were found and treated.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The population of the area served by the Council for Maternity and Child Welfare services is 126,830.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Clinic	Day and Time	Total number of attendances (1945)	Total number of Women attending (1945)	Number of Sessions held (1945)
BIGGLESWADE St. Andrew's Rooms	Tuesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	455	114	26
DUNSTABLE Health Centre, Kingsway	Thursday (Fortnightly) 10.30 and 2.30	815	189	50
HOUGHTON REGIS Baptist Schoolroom	Wednesday (Monthly) 10.30	121	44	13
KEMPSTON Foster Road	Wednesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	506	148	25
LEIGHTON BUZZARD 1 Grovebury Road	Friday (Fortnightly) 10.30	349	101	25
SHEFFORD Methodist School- room, Ampthill Road	Wednesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	146	40	26
SHILLINGTON Congregational School	Thursday (Fortnightly) 10.30	70	15	26
STOTFOLD Unionist Club	Monday (Fortnightly) 10.30	171	48	23
SUNDON Skefko Sports Pavilion	Wednesday (Fortnightly) 10.30	155	49	22
		2788	748	236

In addition to the above Clinics, an Ante-Natal Clinic is provided at the Bedford County Hospital's Out-patients Department which is available to expectant mothers living in the County Area. The Clinic is held on Tuesday afternoons at 1.30 o'clock.

during the year 1945.

Centres	No. of Infants who attended the Centre for the first time during the year				No. of Infants attending during the year who at the end of the year were				Total attendances of Infants				No. of Consultations with Council's Medical Officer	No. of Sessions held during year
	County Cases		Evacuees		County Cases		Evacuees		County Cases		Evacuees			
	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years		
Ampthill	104	5	2	—	85	155	—	17	1438	912	22	32	510	51
Arlesey	49	6	—	—	44	91	—	5	499	392	12	2	322	29
Barton	47	6	—	—	47	128	—	—	808	803	—	—	606	51
Biggleswade	115	9	—	—	70	142	—	—	1631	810	—	—	818	49
Bromham	40	7	—	—	32	73	—	—	327	366	—	—	278	23
Caddington	36	6	—	—	29	76	—	6	485	520	8	21	451	49
Clapham	47	6	—	—	29	107	—	2	844	620	20	5	416	50
Cranfield	35	9	—	—	30	100	—	—	256	592	—	—	440	22
Dunstable	303	22	—	16	290	512	—	16	5776	3101	50	68	3246	153
Eaton Socon	66	2	—	—	47	114	—	—	767	533	2	10	430	50
Harrold	35	5	—	1	24	67	—	1	348	491	15	19	411	25
Heath and Reach	10	—	—	—	5	30	—	1	116	196	9	7	+	22
Houghton Regis	71	3	—	—	61	131	—	7	1338	1048	16	14	652	51
Kempston	197	18	—	—	169	344	—	9	3363	1810	28	5	1485	100
Leighton Buzzard	131	23	10	2	108	218	9	2	2379	1293	79	23	1362	75
Marston Moretaine	25	6	—	—	11	94	—	—	182	487	9	24	400	23
Potton	31	2	—	—	27	59	—	—	337	246	—	—	456	25
Ridgmont	13	7	—	—	7	44	—	—	80	228	—	—	+	21
Sandy	62	5	—	—	57	69	—	—	1052	437	49	22	571	48
Sharnbrook	36	15	—	—	41	74	—	—	405	545	12	16	305	26
Shefford	90	39	—	—	48	106	—	5	518	573	9	8	486	50
Shillington	23	3	—	—	17	58	—	—	262	151	—	—	456	29
Stewartby	26	3	—	—	19	72	—	—	210	384	—	—	224	23
Stotfold	48	2	—	—	41	124	—	4	577	590	6	4	522	23
Studham	12	4	—	—	9	30	—	—	203	155	—	—	206	23
Sundon	52	6	—	—	45	205	—	15	1204	870	—	—	592	51
*Tempsford	16	19	—	—	9	26	—	—	37	63	—	—	40	5
Toddington	37	5	—	—	33	71	—	1	663	361	5	4	385	49
Turvey	18	2	1	2	13	25	—	3	133	226	4	18	50	12
Woburn	15	3	—	—	13	51	—	—	143	433	—	6	+	22
Wootton	22	8	—	—	10	70	—	—	221	528	—	2	402	24
	1812	256	13	21	1470	3466	9	94	26602	19764	355	310	16522	1254

*First Session 14.8.45.

†The Council's Medical Officers do not attend at these Clinics.

HEALTH VISITING.

The following table gives particulars of the visits paid by the Council's twelve Health Visitors during the last two years:—

	1944	1945
Visits to Expectant Mothers	1,004	762
Primary visits to infants under one year	2,673	2,355
Revisits to infants under one year ...	13,143	10,393
Visits to children between one and five years	16,565	16,453
	<u>33,385</u>	<u>29,963</u>

DISTRIBUTION OF FRUIT JUICES AND COD LIVER OIL.

The arrangements whereby expectant mothers and mothers with children under five may obtain supplies of vitamins, under the Ministry of Food Scheme, at Infant Welfare Centres throughout the County was continued in 1945 without variation. Experience has shown that they are adequate and convenient.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Particulars of the work performed by the County Dentists in connection with the Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics during the year 1945 are given below:—

Clinic		Extractions			Fill-ings	Other Operations				No. of Cases Treated
		Anaesthetic		Total		Dress-ings	Scal-ings	Miscel-laneous	Total	
		Local	Gas							
Dunstable	Mothers	—	198	198	22	—	4	8	12	103
	Infants	—	94	94	8	3	—	—	3	58
Leighton Buzzard	Mothers	—	41	41	4	—	—	1	1	19
	Infants	—	10	10	—	—	—	—	—	5
Sundon	Mothers	—	34	34	4	—	—	—	—	16
	Infants	—	1	1	3	4	—	—	4	4
Totals	... ..	—	378	378	41	7	4	9	20	205

Artificial Dentures have also been supplied, under the Council's scheme, to 104 other patients by private dental practitioners.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.

The number of maternity cases admitted to the Council's Institutions during the last five years is shown in the following table:—

INSTITUTION	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Bedford (St. Peter's Hospital) ...	355	452	503	554	473
Luton (St. Mary's Hospital) ...	47	59	113	201	117
Battlesden House (Emergency) Maternity Home	222	57	—	20	—
*Biggleswade (St. Andrew's Hos- pital)	—	—	81	271	153

*Temporarily closed on 22-12-45.

During the year under review 173 cases were admitted to the Maternity Department of the Bedford County Hospital in accordance with the arrangement made by the County Council with that Institution.

Under arrangements made by the County Council with the Luton Corporation 228 cases were admitted to the Luton Maternity Hospital during the year.

The Bedford and County Girls' Home provides accommodation for 16 mothers and their infants. During the year under review 63 cases were admitted. This Institution is maintained by the St. Albans' Diocesan Girls' Aid Association to which the County Council contributes an annual sum of £345 16s. 7d. An annual grant is also made by the Bedford Town Council.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MIDWIVES ACTS.

The number of midwives who notified their intention to practise midwifery within the Administrative area of the County during 1945 was 76.

The following table shows the number of notifications received from Midwives during the past five years:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Of intention to practise	91	86	76	74	76
Of sending for medical help....	339	273	242	218	198
Of still-births occurring in their practice	16	9	19	12	5
Of deaths occurring in their practice:—					
Mothers	—	—	—	2	—
Infants	5	2	2	1	5
Of laying out the dead.....	7	24	9	15	8
Of liability to be a source of infection	9	20	16	8	7
Totals.....	467	414	364	330	299

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No cases were notified by Midwives during 1945.

Ophthalmia.—During 1945, 6 cases were reported.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. — Six cases occurred in midwives' practices during 1945. In each case as the result of treatment the vision was unimpaired.

Inspection of Midwives.

The following table shows the number of visits paid by the County Council Inspector of Midwives during 1945, as compared with the previous four years:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Routine visits of inspection	176	167	185	147	175
Visits paid but midwives not at home	15	62	55	50	22
Special enquiry visits arising from notifications ...	291	311	290	224	210
Other visits and enquiries..	105	83	51	34	28
Totals	587	623	581	465	435

Statistics with regard to the number of Midwives practising in the County Area and the number of cases attended are given below:—

	No. of Midwives practising at end of 1945	No. of Cases attended during 1945		
		Domiciliary Cases	Cases in Institutions	Totals
(a) Employed by the Council:				
As Midwives	14	—	692	692
As Maternity Nurses ...	—	—	47	47
(b) Employed by Voluntary Associations :				
As Midwives	57	519	—	519
As Maternity Nurses ...	—	395	—	395
(c) In private practice:				
As Midwives	10	35	19	54
As Maternity Nurses ...	—	33	72	105
Totals As Midwives ...	81	554	711	1265
As Maternity Nurses	—	428	119	547

During the year 153 claims under Section 9 of the Midwives Act, 1936, were received from doctors, amounting to £271 3s. 6d. The sum of £117 17s. 6d. was recovered from patients during the year.

NURSING HOMES.

On 31st December, 1945, the number of premises registered in the Council's area was five (as Maternity Homes four, as a Nursing Home one), providing a total accommodation of 9 beds for maternity cases and 24 for surgical and medical cases.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

During the year 1945, 273 visits (46 of which were primary visits) were made to children under the age of nine who are being maintained for reward apart from their parents or relatives.

WAR-TIME DAY NURSERIES

The average daily attendances at the six County Council Day Nurseries during 1945 are recorded below:—

Biggleswade (accommodation for 50 children) ...	23
Dunstable—	
West Street (accommodation for 40 children)	16
Closed on November 10th, 1945.	
Luton Road (accommodation for 80 children)	38
Douglas Crescent (accommodation for 40 children)	25
Leighton Buzzard (accommodation for 50 children)	36
Toddington (accommodation for 20 children) ...	14
Closed on November 17th, 1945.	

The Queen's Park Day Nursery, evacuated from Paddington to Bromham Hall, was closed on 21st July, 1945, and the Nursery Party, evacuated to Ickwell Bury, was closed on 15th July, 1945.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Prior to the war, in addition to the ambulances provided by the Bedfordshire County Council in connection with the Public Assistance Institutions, ambulances were provided by the local authorities at Bedford, Luton and Biggleswade. At Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard a voluntary Ambulance Service was provided by The Home Service Ambulance Committee of the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society.

During the war ambulance facilities for the county area were considerably supplemented by the Civil Defence Ambulance Service. On the disbandment of the Civil Defence Services in 1945, the County Council decided to retain such ambulances and personnel as were required to continue an adequate service and to confer with the District Councils with a view to the provision of a free Ambulance Service for the whole County.

At the end of the year under review the details of the Scheme were still under consideration.

The Service for which the County Council became responsible operated from 1st July, 1945, and statistical information is given below.

1ST JULY, 1945—31ST DECEMBER, 1945

Depot	Class of Vehicle	County Journeys	Out of County Journeys	Total No. of Journeys	Total No. of Miles travelled
Bedford ...	Ambulances ...	566	53	619	11,888
	Sitting-Case Cars	359	55	414	9,855
					21,743
Biggleswade	Ambulances ...	81	67	148	5,148
	Sitting-Case Cars	18	8	26	1,057
					6,205
Amphill ...	Ambulances ...	49	6	55	1,648
	Sitting-Case Cars	63	9	72	1,972
					3,620
Dunstable ...	Ambulances ...	31	16	47	2,448
	Sitting-Case Cars	36	11	47	2,736
					5,184
		1,203	225	1,428	36,752

PUBLIC VACCINATION, 1945.

The following Statistics for the whole County have been compiled from the Monthly Returns of the Vaccination Officers.

	VACCINATION DISTRICT								
	BEDFORD	BIGGLES- WADE	AMPTHILL	WOBURN	LUTON	DUN- STABLE	LEIGHTON BUZZARD	WYM- INGTON	TOTALS
No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/44 ...	2170	356	180	326	2023	211	58	6	5330
No. of children shown on Birth Sheets received during 1945 ...	1873	378	114	70	2352	175	130	19	5111
Successfully Vaccinated ...	4043	734	294	396	4375	386	188	25	10441
Insusceptible of Vaccination	599	72	11	23	740	33	35	2	1515
Died Unvaccinated ...	6	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	11
Declarations of Conscien- tious Objection ...	51	14	5	1	55	6	5	—	137
No. of Cases outstanding on 31/12/45 ...	1049	260	97	49	1397	120	115	16	3103
	1705	346	113	73	2197	159	155	18	4766
	2338	388	181	323	2178	227	33	7	5675

It will be observed from the foregoing table that during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1945, 5,111 births were entered on the Births Lists received by the Vaccination Officers, which, together with the number outstanding from the previous year (5,330), made a total of 10,441.

Of this number, 1,515 were successfully vaccinated, and declarations of conscientious objection were made in respect of 3,103 infants. Of the remainder, 137 died unvaccinated; 11 were found to be insusceptible of vaccination; and 5,675 had either left the County or were otherwise outstanding at the end of the year.

In order to obtain as accurate a figure as possible to represent the percentage of children vaccinated in the County, the records in respect of the births returned for the previous twelve months have been examined. From 1st January, 1944, to 31st December, 1944, 5,594 births were returned. By the end of January, 1946, these births had been accounted for as follows:—

Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	1576
Insusceptible of vaccination	...	...	...	11
Number in respect of whom Declarations of conscientious objection were made	...	...	...	3,317
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	142
Vaccination postponed	...	...	...	31
Cases outstanding	...	...	...	517
				<hr/>
				5,594
				<hr/>

It will therefore be seen that of the births dealt with, only 32.13% were vaccinated, a higher proportion than in any previous year. With regard to the remaining 67.87% the parents declined to allow vaccination on the grounds of conscientious objection.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During 1945, 4,373 children have been immunised against diphtheria in connection with the Government Scheme in Bedfordshire.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

83 male defectives and 93 female defectives, for whose maintenance the Bedfordshire County Council is responsible, were maintained in Certified Institutions at 31st December, 1945, 17 males and 20 females being on licence from such Institutions.

Thirteen male and 19 female defectives were under Guardianship and 1 female was on licence from Guardianship.

BLIND WELFARE

The following figures have been supplied by the Clerk of the Council of blind persons in the County.

On March 31st, 1945, there were 430 registered blind persons residing in the County.

During the year 49 cases were removed from the Register and 70 cases were added to the Register.

The number of cases on the Register on the 31st March, 1946, was therefore 451.

The ages and sexes of these 451 blind persons are as follows:—

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
0—4	...	...	...	—	—
5—16	...	...	...	2	4
17—21	...	...	...	5	1
22—40	...	...	...	30	12
41—50	...	...	...	37	23
51—65	...	...	...	54	48
66—70	...	...	...	19	35
71 and over	...	...	...	68	113
Total	...	...	...	<u>215</u>	<u>236</u>

The numbers were distributed as follows:—

North Beds.	...	...	...	147
South Beds	...	...	...	304

MILK AND DAIRIES—FOOD AND DRUGS.

As stated in previous Reports, this work was carried on during the year by temporary staff in the absence of the County Sanitary Inspector and Sampling Officer serving with His Majesty's Forces abroad.

On 31st December, 1945, 57 farms in the County were licensed to produce "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and 100 "Accredited" Milk.

Particulars of the results of Bacteriological Examinations of milk samples taken during 1945 are set out below:—

	1945
Milk produced by designated herds:—	
Satisfactory	407
Unsatisfactory	214
Total	<u>621</u>
Milk produced by other herds, <i>viz.</i> , Applicants for licences, Suppliers to Schools, etc.:—	
Satisfactory	43
Unsatisfactory	10
Total	<u>53</u>

Sampling under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

	1945
Milk:—	
Genuine	170
Adulterated	24
Total	<u>194</u>
Other Foods and Drugs:—	
Genuine	922
Adulterated	3
Total	<u>925</u>
	<u>1119</u>